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THE REHEARSAL.

1. An Examination of Mr. *Stephens* his *Recantation*, Publiſh'd in the *Flying-Poſt*. With the uſe the *Whiggs* make of it.

2. Something ſaid as to the *Memorial of the Church of England.*

WEDNESDAY, *April* 24. 1706.

(1.) *Country-m.* YOU have put me off ſeveral times, *Maſter*, from purſuing the ſtory of Mr. *Stephens*. What ſay you to his *Recantation* Printed in the *Flying-Poſt* of laſt *March* 23. *Num.* 1699.

Rehearſal. I ſay, that in all that *Recantation* he do's not call himſelf an *High-Church-Man*, as the *Whiggs* wou'd now Repreſent him, to thruſt the *Scandal* off themſelves.

Country-m. But the ſame *Flying-Poſt* ſays, That *it is a full Proof of the Inveterate Rancour and Malice of the Author of the* REHEARSAL *againſt the Revolution Party, whom that Libeller Charg'd in groſs with Mr.* Stephens's *Crime.*

Rehearſ. I don't Remember he Charg'd it upon the *Revolution Party*, or nam'd the *Revolution* at all in the matter. But if he did; And that the *Revolution Party* was the *High-Church*, as *Tutchin* and *De Foe* have often Repreſented them, on Purpoſe to *Blacken* them; Then it was upon the *High-Church* in Groſs that he *Charg'd* Mr. *Stephens*'s Letter! And is *Flying-Poſt* Angry at this?

But ſuppoſe he Charg'd it upon that *Party* of which Mr. *Stephens* then Notoriouſly was, that is, the *Whiggs* or *Low-Church*; upon whom elſe ſhould he Charge it? If any *Book* or *Paper* is to be Charg'd upon *Parties*. If not, why is *Memorial*, &c. Charg'd upon *High-Church*?

Again, was there more of *Inveterate Rancour and Malice* in Charging this upon his *Party*, than upon the quite Oppoſite *Party*, the *High-Church*? As I have ſhew'd the *Whiggs* did, before Mr. *Stephens* was Taken. And was there no *Malice* or *Rancor*, after that, to make Mr. *Stephens* an *High-Church-Man*, on Purpoſe to lay it ſtill upon *High-Church*?

Country-m. But Mr. *Stephens* ſays in his *Recantation*, *By this laſt Action, I have forfeited the good Opinion and Patronage of all thoſe who wiſh well to their Country; Many of whom own'd we with more Reſpect than was due to my Condition, but have now Caſt me off with Indignation.*

Rehearſ. Was it the *High-Church* that own'd Mr. *Stephens* with ſo much *Reſpect*? Was it their *Good Opinion* and *Patronage* he complains he has Loſt? Was it not the *Whiggs* he ſays have *Caſt him off*? And he calls theſe, *All thoſe who wiſh well to their Country.* So that he hereby not only Declares himſelf a true *Whigg* ſtill, but, in the words of the *Obſervator* which I have before Quoted, That they are the *ONLY Friends to the Queen and the Government.* And conſequently the *High-Church* muſt be their *Enemies.* This is their *High-Church-Man*!

But I have another Queſtion to Ask. When was it the *Whiggs* Caſt him off? Was it before he was *Taken* and *Diſcover'd* to be the *Author* of that *Letter*? Or did none of them know before, that he was *Author* of that *Letter*? Did not they know, who Wrote on purpoſe to put it upon *High-Church*? And after he was *Taken*, to make him an *High-Church Man* in *Diſguiſe*? Who ſay, That the *High-Church* Choſe ſuch an one, as did not only Appear to be a *Whigg*, but who really was a *Whigg*. And was not that his meaning, when in his *Recantation*, he brings it as an Argument in his Favour, that he was *Zealous for the late Revolution*? Theſe Men make the *Revolution WHIGGISH*, and *HIGH-CHURCH*, juſt as it ſerves their Turn! They *Blacken* the *High-Church* with it, and Attribute it all to *Them*, when they Accuſe them for Change of *Principles.* At other times they make the *High-Church* the *Enemies* of the *Revolution*, and give all the Glory of it to the *Whiggs*.

Country-m.

Country-m. But Mr. *Stephens* Pleads, in *Mitigation* of *Damages*, that he was Drawn into this; he ſays in his *Recantation*, *'Twas my Misfortune too Inadvertently to hearken to what was ſaid Laſt Summer by thoſe who took Pleaſure in telling News, and giving ill Turns to all Events. My fooliſh Credulity made me Believe, and my Raſhneſs prompted me to Publiſh what I took without due Inquiry; and which I am too late Convinc'd was Unjuſt and Groundleſs.*

Rehearſ. Let his *Damage* be *Mitigated* as much as his *Superiors* think fit. I grudge nothing of that. I am not Pleading againſt Mr. *Stephens*, nor have any *Perſonal Prejudice* to him. I am only Concern'd to wipe off the *Scandal* that others throw upon the *Church*, on his Account. And in this I appeal to himſelf, whether that *Company* he kept *Laſt Summer* who took *Pleaſure* in telling *News*, and giving *ill Turns* to all *Events*, was *High-Church* or *Low-Church*, was *Whiggs* or *Jure Divino* Men? Did Mr. *Stevens*'s Converſation lie among *High-Flyers* and *Jacobites*, who are Accus'd as *Authors* or *Prompters* of his *Letter*? Or wou'd he have given ſuch *Credit* to *Them*, as to be *Miſled* by the *Turns* they gave to *Events*? They who know the *Man* and his *Converſation* will Judge of this. Let him name thoſe *Jacobites* or *High-Flyers* who gave him his *Informations*. There's no *Danger* in that. I will not bid him name any of the *Whiggs*, nor tell *Tales* out of *School*. But if he can lay it upon none of the *Other*, then the *Honour* of his *Letter* muſt belong to that *Party* which he has always Eſpous'd; And not upon *Thoſe* whoſe *Hatred*, he tells in his *Recantation*, he had *heretofore Incurr'd*, and *who obſtruct the Publick Affairs*. Now I ask him, whom he meant by theſe? I ask *Flying-Poſt*, *Obſervators*, *Reviews*, &c. Who *Theſe* are? Whether the *High* or *Low-Church*? Whether *Whiggs* or *Tackers*? Can Mr. *Stephens* his *Word* be then taken for *Himſelf*? Even in this his *Recantation*, ſo Diligently *Publiſh'd* by the *Whiggs*? If ſo, then he is, and always was a *Whigg*; and he thinks the *High Church* the *Obſtructors* of the *Publick Affaires*. Yet the *High-Church* muſt lie under the *Load* of all the *Reflections* he has Caſt upon the *Duke* of *Marlborough*, and the *Miniſtry*! It is *They* who muſt *Envy* the *Succeſſes* of that *Great Man*, becauſe he is a *Church-Man*! It is the *High-Church* muſt *Envy* him for this! He has been Purſu'd all along with the utmoſt *Malice* and *Squint-Reflections* of the *Whigg-Papers*, which I have before ſufficiently Shew'd. And now all this muſt be Turn'd upon *High-Church*! Nay, their very ſpeaking in his Defence, is made an Argument againſt him. For *High-Church* are made *Jacobites* and *Papiſhes*, and conſequently he muſt be ſo too! Who or what is it can put any Body out of the Reach of theſe Mens *Malice*? When they fly ſo Flagrantly in the Face of the *Government*, that they cannot *Juſtify* it, nor *Trimm* nor *Evade* it; Then they put what themſelves have wrote upon the *High-Church*, and Turn her *Accuſers* for it!

Country-m. That is as if I *Murder'd* a Man, and put the *Bloody Knife* into the Hand of one *Sleeping* hard by; And then became his *Accuſer*, and got him *Hang'd* for it. Thus ſecuring one *Murder* by Another! *Maſter*, this is the very Caſe! And *Imagination* cannot Reach a Greater *Wickedneſs* than this! And this you have fully Prov'd to *Demonſtration* as to *DE FOE's Shorteſt way*, and this *Letter* of Mr. *Stephens*'s. But you gave me ſome Grounds to expect that you wou'd ſay ſomething as to the *Memorial of the Church of England*. O, I wou'd fain hear a Little as to that, which has made ſo great a Noiſe.

(2.) *Rehearſ.* Where wou'd you look for *Stolen-Goods* but in *Suſpected* Places? And if you found other *Stolen Goods* there, wou'd you not be apt to think that *Yours* had gone the ſame way? You ſee what a *Trade* theſe Men have made of *Forgeing* Books upon the *Church* which they *Wrote* themſelves. And this *Memorial* looks as Like the *Second Part* of the *Shorteſt way*, as one *Egg* is like another. It is wrote in the *Stile* of an *High-Church-Man*. Now if I can *Prove* that he cou'd be no *High-Church-Man* who Wrote it, then it will be Eaſy to Gueſs at whoſe *Door* to lay this *Foundling*.

Country-m. O, *Maſter*, if that cou'd be made out *Clearly*, it wou'd be worth a *Million* of *Money* to this *Nation*. It wou'd *Force* open the *Eyes* almoſt of thoſe Born *Blind*.

Rehearſ. I charge my ſelf with *Proving* that *Point*, as *Clear* as the *Sun*. But the Time is ſpent now. Yet that I may not be thought to put the *Reader* off with meer *Expectation*, I deſire any who have the *Memorial* to Read *page* 45, 46. Where he will find Rank *Hobbiſm* as to *Government*, his *State* of *Nature* ſet up, with the *Original* of *Power* in the *People*, and the whole *WHIGGISH Scheme*. But for the ſake of thoſe who have not that *Scarce* Book, I will ſet down the *Words* in my next. And Anſwer the Objection of this being Wrote by *Colluſion*, and only in *Imitation* of the *Whiggs*.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THis is only leſt Mr. *De Foe* ſhou'd forget his *Promiſe* in his *Review* of the *Second* of *March* laſt, to Explain further his *Dry* and *Wet Martyrdom*. And to let him know it is Expected.

Lately Publiſh'd.

A Warning for the Church of *England*, *London*, Printed and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*.

London, Printed and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. 1706.